

ORDERS CONCEIVED by the Lords of His Maiesties Priuie Councell,

and by his Highnesse speciall direction, commanded to be put in due execution, for the restraint of killing and eating of Flesh this next Lent, and to be executed as well by the Lord Maior within the City and Suburbs of London, and by the Officers of the Liberties and exempt places in and about the same, As by Order to be prescribed through all the Counties of this Realme, to the Iustices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and Officers of Corporate Townes.

November 12. In the eleuenth yeere of His Maieslies Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Freland.



THE Kings most Excellent Maiestie, vnderstanding of the great good and benefit, which did ensue the last yeare in the course taken, by forbidding to kill and vtter flesh in the time of Lent, And considering how expedient it is, that such directions, as haue bene heretofore conceived, and published for a Rule of order and moderation in that time of abstinence, be duely kept and obserued; hath giuen charge and commandement, that a more seuerer and stricter course be taken for the preventing of such ill consequents, as haue happened by the licentiousnesse of former times, then could conueniently be executed the last yeere vpon so short warning, after so long a time of liberty and disorder. And therefore to the end euery man may take notice of his Maiesties expresse pleasure and commandement, and prouide himselfe accordingly for the due obseruance of Lent, as may best sute with the Policie of State, and the Lawes and Statutes of this Realme, hath commanded that these Orders following be now published, to be obserued, and put in due execution in the time of this next Lent.

First, whereas it appeareth, that the chiefeest cause of all abuse & disorder hath growne from the Licences, that haue bin granted to Butchers to kill and vtter flesh contrary to Law; and that it is plaine that no Maior, Iustice of Peace, or other person, of what degree or qualitie soeuer, can grant any Licence in this kinde; And that we of his Maiesties Priuie Councell doe forbear to grant any such Licence, or to giue way thereunto: It is therefore ordered vpon the Penalties provided by Lawe, and such further punishment to be inflicted vpon the offenders, as shall bee thought meet, that no such Licence be granted for the killing or vttering of flesh, and that no Butcher, or other person whatsoever, doe kill, vtter or put to sale any flesh contrary to the Lawes established and provided in that behalfe.

And for the auoyding of such inconueniences, as haue risen by disorders in this kinde: The Lord Maior of London, and euery other Officer and Iustice of Peace, shal call before them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, Victualers, Cookes, Tauernors, and keepers of ordinary Tables, and such others that vtter Victuals, to examine them vpon their corporall oathes, what flesh is, or hath bene, during the Lent season, dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses; which if they shall refuse to doe, then to commit to Prison the said seruants, so refusing vpon their oathes to declare the truth.

That the Lord Maior shall now presently before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, Keepers of ordinary Tables, Victualers, Alehouse-keepers, and Tavernors, within the Citie and Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such persons as hee shall appoint meere for that purpose, and shall take Bonds with sufficient Sureties of euery of them in good summes of money, viz. one hundred pounds the Principall, and the Sureties thirtie pounds apiece, to his Maiesties vse, not to dresse any Flesh in their houses this Lent time, for any respect, nor suffer it to be eaten: The like Bonds with Sureties shall be taken of the like persons, vpon like Penalties, by the chiefe Officers of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof, and euery of the said Bonds to be certified into his Maiesties Exchequer.

And for the Butchers and others that come with victuals of flesh out of the Country to the Citie, the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates, and other like places in the Suburbs, where flesh may bee brought in, to viewe and search, and to intercept the same: and if any of those watchmen be found negligent, and corrupt in his charge, then hee to be committed to Prison during the whole Lent.

And to the end the Fishermen may imploy themselves to Sea, with better encouragement then heretofore; And that the Fishmongers may furnish themselves with such stoe from time to time hereafter, as shall be expedient aswell for the provision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasonable rates: They are hereby required to take notice of his Maiesties commandement, and constant resolution for the obseruance of Lent, and Fish dayes both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And forasmuch as the vse and libertie now taken, is so farre declined from the abstinence, and moderation of former times, as instead of fasting, & forbearing Suppers on Fridayes both in Lent, and other times, which heretofore was duely obserued: there is now nothing more vsuall, then to make speciall choise of Friday nights for Suppers & entertainment, and to marke out those dayes for ryot and exesse, to the great offence and scandal of Government: For the auoyding whereof, as it is to be wished, that euery man would be a rule of order to himselfe in his own house, aswell in respect of the Publique, as of his private ease and commoditie: So his Maiestie doth straitly charge and command all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinarie Tables, Victualers, Alehouse-keepers, and Tavernors, not to make any Supper for any person, or persons whatsoever vpon Friday nights either in Lent or out of Lent, nor to suffer any Meate to be then dresse, vttered, sold, or eaten in their houses, vpon such punishment, as is due to those that shall contemne his Maiesties Royall pleasure and commandement.

And as these Orders are expressely deuised to bee executed in the Citie of London, and places neere to the same: So his Maiesties pleasure and Commandement is, that the execution of these, or like Orders be performed by the commandement of his Maiesties Iustices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and to all other Officers in Townes Corporate, or in any Liberties, with like order for the Bonds to be taken to his Maiesties vse, & certified into the Exchequer. And that no manner of toleration, fauour or conniuecie be vsed by any Justice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of these Orders, as both they that shall presume wittingly so to tolerate the offence, as also the Partie himselfe offending, will answer the same at their veremost perils. It being his Maiesties expresse pleasure, that his Lawes in this case shall bee hereafter severely executed vpon all offenders whatsoever.

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